

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-2623**

**DeGruchy Blacksmith Shop**

**9533 Belair Road**

**Perry Hall, Baltimore County**

**1911**

**Private**

The DeGruchy Blacksmith Shop is a vernacular industrial building that dates to an early 20th century period of growth in Germantown in the Eleventh District of Baltimore County. Although the area began to develop as a crossroads community in the early 19th century, it did not fully take shape until the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1911, French immigrant David DeGruchy erected the wheelwright and blacksmith's shop on property that he purchased in 1870. This land had previously been occupied by a school that was constructed no longer than twenty years prior to DeGruchy's acquisition of the land. By 1877, a blacksmith's shop had been constructed in close proximity to the location of the extant building. It is difficult to tell, however, whether or not these two properties are the same. If the shop depicted on the 1877 atlas was owned by DeGruchy, then the extant building replaced the earlier structure. Indeed, if it is the same property, then DeGruchy's shop was occupied by Hy. Herring in the late 1870s. Nevertheless, David DeGruchy's name appears next to the blacksmith's shop depicted on the 1915 county atlas. DeGruchy died in 1939. The expansion of the city of Baltimore into the suburbs and the increased commercialization of the city's suburbs led to the obsolescence of the blacksmith shop as a familiar sight along the county's turnpikes and other primary thoroughfares.

The DeGruchy Blacksmith Shop is a two-and-a-half-story building with an elongated rectangular footprint that is three bays wide, five bays deep, and fronts northwest along Belair Road. An asphalt parking lot spans the southeast and northeast elevations. The first story, which sits on a solid random rubble stone foundation, features solid five-course American bond brick construction below a wood frame second story clad in asbestos shingles. A front gambrel roof clad in corrugated sheet metal caps the building. The façade's first story is divided into two retail storefronts and features two one-light single-leaf plate glass doors and four one-light fixed plate glass windows with metal surrounds and bulkhead. Two 6/6 vinyl windows flank a central 8/8 vinyl window that is centrally located on the second story. One 1/1 vinyl window pierces the attic story. A circa 1980 dogleg flight of wood frame open stringer stairs ascends to the second story of the rear elevation.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2623

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic DeGruchy Blacksmith Shop (preferred)

other DeGruchy Wheelwright Shop

### 2. Location

street and number 9533 Belair Road not for publication

city, town Perry Hall vicinity

county Baltimore County

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Bri-Ton Realty, LLC

street and number 12804 Manor Road telephone Not Available

city, town Glen Arm state MD zip code 21057

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 14401 folio 620

city, town Towson tax map 72 tax parcel 902 tax ID number 1106046580

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory  
1

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2623

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The DeGruchy Blacksmith Shop, constructed in 1911, is a two-and-a-half-story vernacular building with an elongated rectangular footprint that is three bays wide, five bays deep, and fronts northwest along Belair Road. An asphalt parking lot spans the southeast and northeast elevations. The first story, which sits on a solid random rubble stone foundation, features solid five-course American bond brick construction below a wood frame second story clad in asbestos shingles. A front gambrel roof clad in corrugated sheet metal caps the building. The façade's first story is divided into two retail storefronts and features two one-light single-leaf plate glass doors and four one-light fixed plate glass windows with metal surrounds and bulkhead. Two 6/6 vinyl windows flank a central 8/8 vinyl window that is centrally located on the second story. One 1/1 vinyl window pierces the attic story. A circa 1980 dogleg flight of wood frame open stringer stairs ascends to the second story of the rear elevation.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2623

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The DeGruchy Blacksmith Shop is a vernacular industrial building that dates to an early 20<sup>th</sup> century period of growth in Germantown in the Eleventh District of Baltimore County. Although the area began to develop as a crossroads community in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, it did not fully take shape until the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. In 1911, French immigrant David DeGruchy erected the wheelwright and blacksmith's shop on property that he purchased in 1870. This land had previously been occupied by a school that was constructed no longer than twenty years prior to DeGruchy's acquisition of the land.<sup>1</sup> By 1877, a blacksmith's shop had been constructed in close proximity to the location of the extant building. It is difficult to tell, however, whether or not these two properties are the same. If the shop depicted on the 1877 atlas was owned by DeGruchy, then the extant building replaced the earlier structure. Indeed, if it is the same property, then DeGruchy's shop was occupied by Hy. Herring in the late 1870s.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, David DeGruchy's name appears next to the blacksmith's shop depicted on the 1915 county atlas.<sup>3</sup> DeGruchy died in 1939. The expansion of the city of Baltimore into the suburbs and the increased commercialization of the city's suburbs led to the obsolescence of the blacksmith shop as a familiar sight along the county's turnpikes and other primary thoroughfares.

In 1775, Henry Dorsey Gough purchased a mid-18<sup>th</sup> century Georgian estate from Corbin Lee and renamed it Perry Hall. This property was located in the vicinity of the current intersection of Belair and Joppa Roads. Belair Road connected Baltimore to the town of Bel Air as early as the mid-1700s. Dating to the 1730s, Joppa Road connected settlements along the Patapsco River with Joppa, the original Baltimore County seat located on the Big Gunpowder River. The Perry Hall estate was located a short distance to the north of the intersection of these two important Colonial period roads. This arrangement set the area on a course for development as a crossroads community.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Baltimore County Historic Inventory; see also J. C. Sidney, *Map of Baltimore City and County, Maryland, from Actual Surveys* (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1850).

<sup>2</sup> *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1877). It is believed that further historic research would aid in the determination of the building's history.

<sup>3</sup> *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley, 1915).

<sup>4</sup> William B. Marye, "The Old Indian Road," *Maryland Historical Magazine* 15 (1920): pp. 208-213; see also E. Frances Offutt, *Baltimore County Landmarks* (Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1971), p. 46-48.

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## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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**Continuation Sheet**

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By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the lands associated with Perry Hall had been greatly subdivided, and several other landholders in the area began to construct residential buildings along either side of Belair Road. The 1850 county atlas shows at least nine residential structures located between the two rivers. In addition to these, three taverns were clustered around the center of the community near the intersection of Joppa and Belair Roads. The name Germantown came to this settlement in the 1860s, when a significant number of German farmers began to settle in and around the area.<sup>5</sup>

Between 1850 and the mid-1870s, the Germantown community grew considerably. From the nine residential structures in 1850, the town grew to at least thirty-seven in 1877. This number continued to increase, for the county history published shortly thereafter records the population as fifty inhabitants. At that time, a general store, two blacksmith shops, a schoolhouse, three churches, and tavern, and sawmill were located in the small settlement. In addition, other communities developed in the vicinity of the Belair/Joppa Road intersection. Greenwood, located to the west of Germantown, had a population of one hundred by 1881. Kingsville, the town just north of the Great Gunpowder Falls, had a population of one hundred and fifty. Although this area was still rural in its agricultural character, it was maintaining a rapid rate of development throughout the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>6</sup>

In 1867, the Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike Company incorporated with the intent of creating a better road from Baltimore to the town of Jerusalem. The turnpike was slated to follow the path of Belair Road until it reached the Little Gunpowder Falls, at which point it would veer off and follow Jerusalem Road for the remainder of the distance. The Turnpike Company completed the first eight miles of the road to just south of Perry Hall with the remainder of the road left unimproved. Due to complaints by local citizens and administrative changes in the company, the road was completed for an additional four miles to the existing bridge over Little Gunpowder Falls in 1886. The first tollgate was constructed within the city of Baltimore.

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<sup>5</sup> J. C. Sidney, *Map of Baltimore City and County, Maryland, from Actual Surveys* (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1850); see also Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

<sup>6</sup> *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1877); see also J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County from the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of their Representative Men* (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881), p. 918.

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**Continuation Sheet**

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The second tollgate along the road was constructed just south of the intersection of Joppa Road and the newly renamed Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike.<sup>7</sup> Since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the landscape of Germantown has greatly changed. To begin, the community was absorbed by the town of Perry Hall to the immediate south, which developed more through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century than Germantown. In 1906, the portion of the Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike lying between White Marsh Run and the Little Gunpowder Falls had deteriorated to the extent that all toll collection along this section ceased by order of the state government. After five years of deliberation and petitioning by local residents, the turnpike was finally ceded to Baltimore County. The rural character of the area, however, did not change until after the Great Depression. Increased outmigration from Baltimore and development of the surrounding area led to the suburbanization of Perry Hall. Belair Road, now a main thoroughfare through the town, was widened in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and is now a four lane highway. Commercial buildings, churches, and other institutional buildings now intermingle with a few pockets of residential construction along Belair Road just north of its intersection with Joppa Road.

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<sup>7</sup> E. Frances Offutt, *Baltimore County Landmarks* (Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1971), p. 46; see also William Hollifield, *Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County* (Cockeysville, MD: Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978), p. 78.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2623

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.  
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.  
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.  
Hollifield, William. *Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County*. Cockeysville, MD: Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978.  
*Map of Baltimore County*. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.  
Marye, William B. "The Old Indian Road." *Maryland Historical Magazine* 15 (1920).  
Offutt, E. Frances. *Baltimore County Landmarks*. Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1971.  
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.  
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys*. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .10 Acre  
Acreage of historical setting Unknown  
Quadrangle name White Marsh Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1911, the DeGruchy Blacksmith Shop has been associated with the .333 acres of land known as tax parcel 902 of map 72 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 18, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

BA-0540  
11453 LONGGREEN PIKE  
GLEN ARM  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

USGS Quad: WHITE MARSH  
Scale: 1:24,000

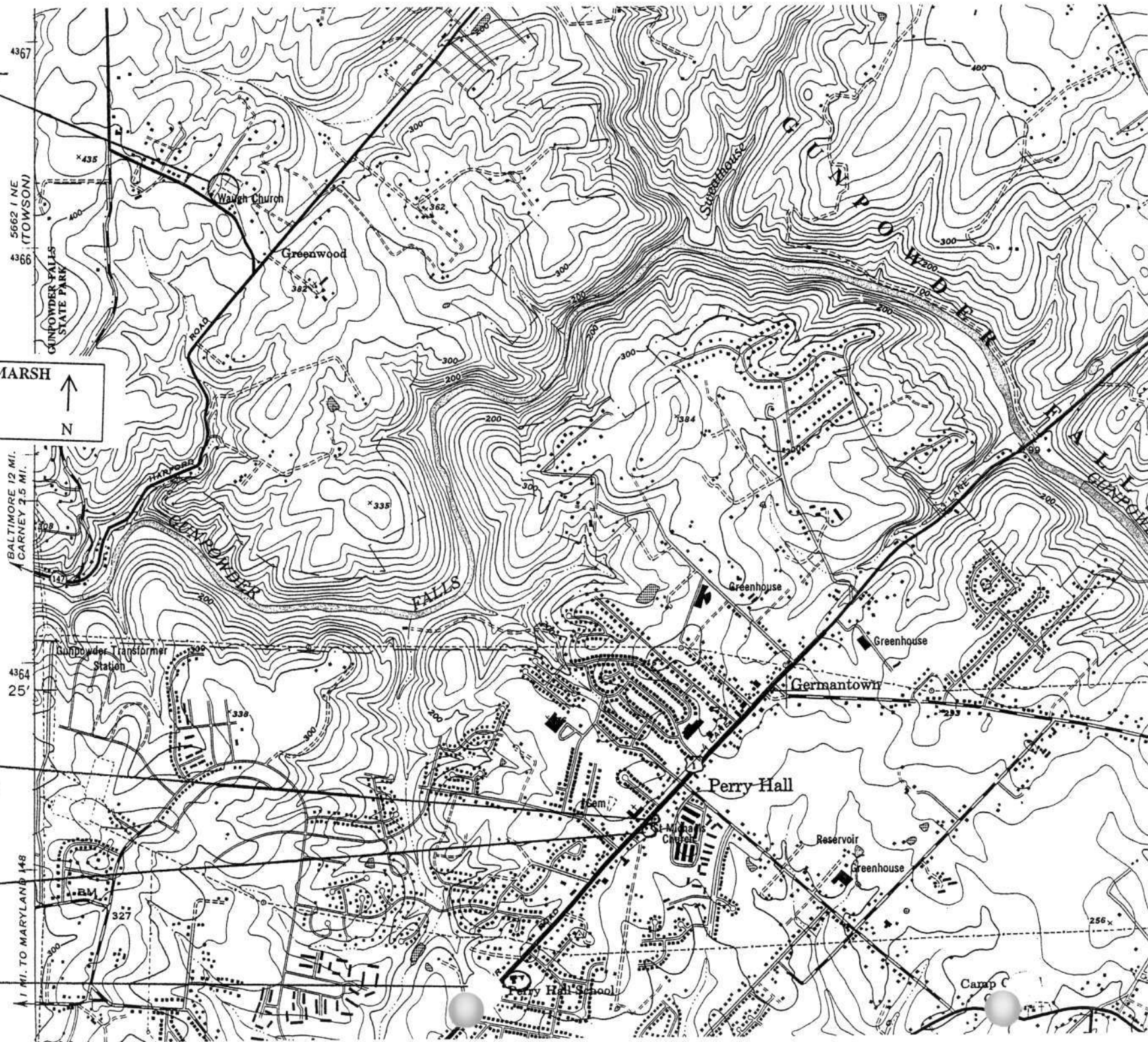


INCORRECT  
LOCATION

BA 2624  
9537 BEL AIR ROAD

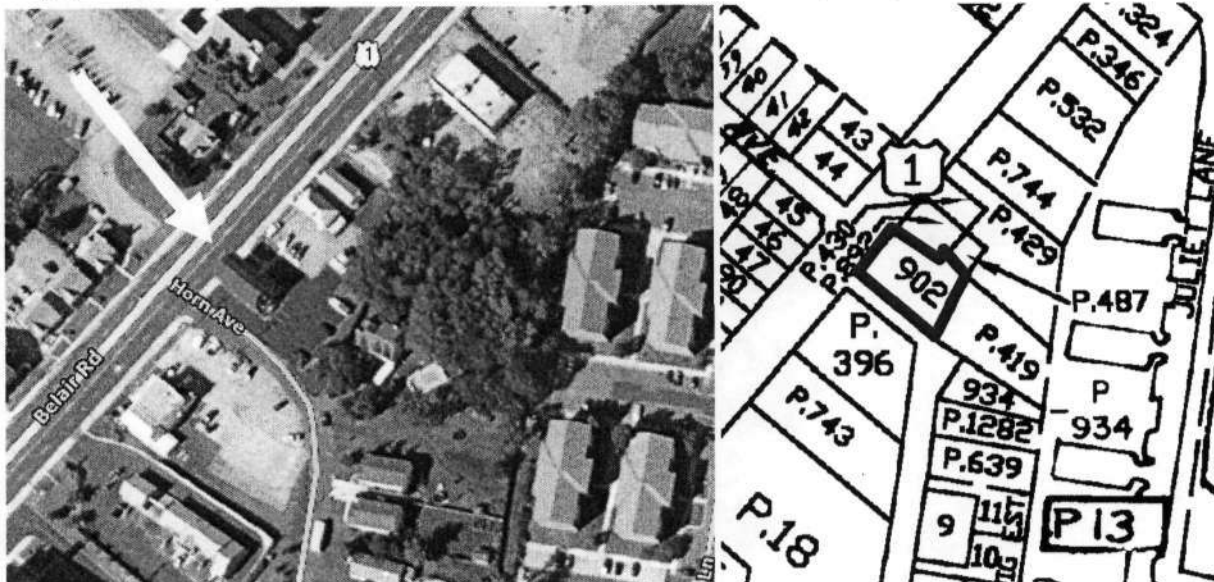
BA-2623  
9533 BELAIR ROAD  
PERRY HALL, BALTIMORE  
COUNTY

BA 2622  
9517 BEL AIR ROAD





Tax Map 72, p. 902





BA-2623

9533 BELAIR ROAD, PERRY HALL  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

NW-ELEVATION

1 of 3



BA-2623

9533 BELAIR ROAD, PERRY HALL  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
TRACERIES

3h001

MD SHPO

S. CORNER

2 of 3





BA-2623

9533 BELAIR ROAD, PERRY HALL  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

N. CORNER

3 of 3

BA-2623

DE GRUCHY WHEELWRIGHT SHOP - 1911 - 9533 Belair Road, Perry Hall. Brick, gambrel-roofed building erroneously called a barn. Built by David De Gruchy in 1911 as a wheelwright shop. De Gruchy was a French immigrant who bought a former school lot in 1870 and started a smithy. That was the time of the Franco-Prussian war and De Gruchy wanted the post office renamed from "Germantown." His obituary appears in the Jeffersonian on March 31, 1939. There was a beauty shop in this industrial building in 1989.